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SOURCE Kung-shang Jih-pao.

PAPER SAYS COMMUNIST MURDERS
REVEAL WEAKNESS OF RED RULE

The pro-KMT Hong Kong Kung-shang Jih-pao, on 2 December 1950, reported that the crowded jails in Canton had forced the Red Army officials to devise various methods to alleviate the situation. The aged and infirm were released, while the others were either sent to camps to be indoctrinated and enrolled into the volunteer army or were executed. "A man who lived in the vicinity of the execution grounds stated that from 20-28 November the sounds of gunfire and groans of the men being shot could be heard repeatedly," reported the Kung-shang Jih-pao.

In the same issue, this paper reported the following story:

"The Communist nonferrous metals committee had arranged with a certain firm in Hui-yang to act as a purchasing station for wolfram and tin mined in various hsiens of south central Kwangtung. Unexpectedly, a Communist agent conspired with Wei, the manager, to raise the bidding price on contracts to 350,000 yuan per ton for delivery. This brought tremendous losses to the merchants, and a wave of strikes among the miners. Lin Liu, foreman of the Goddess of Mercy Mine in Hui-yang Hsien, and 70 miners were arrested on the charge that they had been incited by Nationalist underground workers to start a strike and interfere with the sale of the ore. Three contractors were also arrested. To 'suppress' strikes, the Tung-chiang Military District sent a secret wire to Li Yu-fei, captain of the police station in whose jurisdiction the aforesaid mine is located, to have four [not specified] of the offenders sent before a firing squad."

In its issue of 12 December, the Kung-shang Jih-pao reported that 23 prominent citizens of Po-lo, including Liu T'ao-i, a former principal of the Po-lo middle school, were sentenced to death by the Communist magistrate on claims that they were implicated in the wholesale escape of prisoners and guerrilla infiltration. Although 340 business firms in Po-lo were willing to vouch for Liu, the death sentence was not remitted.

In connection with these and similar reports, the Kung-shang Jih-pao on 3 December carried a biting editorial, as follows:

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"Political struggles often involve bloodshed; but even if power is gained in this way, the method can only be considered abnormal and one of emergency. Even beasts do not kill wantonly; how much less should a political party, or a 'revolution.'

"The Communists have announced that 17 newspaper reporters in Canton have been imprisoned or executed, including Chao Fei and Yeh Yun-sheng. What was their crime? Being 'cultural agents.' A 'cultural agent' is one who lampoons the Communist authorities. But why are those authorities lampooned? when lampooned, the Communists do not examine themselves, but try to stop the lampooning by murder. What good does that do? To maintain authority by murder takes us back to Chieh and Chou /infamous Chinese tyrants/, the harsh rule of Ch'in, and the empires of Louis XVI and the Tsars, which might have been transmitted to a thousand generations, but really lasted only one, and where are they now?

"The excuse is 'reactionary.' The Communists seemed not to fear several million Nationalist troops, but cringe before some cultured persons whose hands have not strength enough to tie a chicken. Who will believe them when they disclaim a narrow cruelty? These men were simply reporters, trying to earn a living. They had neither the selfishness nor the power of politicians, yet they had to be put out of the way. What a tragedy!

"Other similar cases of injustice may be laid to irregularities of the warlords; but the Communists talk about 'freedom of speech' and 'personal liberty' while publicly murdering reporters! What an anomaly! If this goes on, anybody can kill; anybody is guilty enough to be killed; and in a topsy-turvy world, human life is not worth as much as a dog's. With all their patter of glittering slogans, the Communists have come to this pass. What do the proud pro-Red fellow-travelers think of this?

"Such violence shows the weakness of Communist rule. They think they must adopt it to stay in power. They do not know how vain are their actions. And why do we need to worry about their future?"

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